



July 20, 2020

Regarding PSC Docket: 5-UI-120

Dear Chairperson Valcq and Commissioners Nowak and Huebner,

We are writing in regards to PSC Docket 5-UI-120 to express our support for extending the moratorium on utility shut-offs as originally laid out in Governor Evers Emergency Order #11.

2020 has been a long and difficult year. As much as we would like it all to be over, we still have a long road ahead of us on our return to normalcy. The State of Wisconsin is just now reaching the peak of new COVID-19 cases, and the associated economic impacts of the pandemic are still looming large across the state. As of this week, over 260,000 Wisconsinites are still unemployed and economic experts are predicting that the third quarter of this year will see the descent of a tidal wave of bankruptcies whose impacts will be felt across the country.

The statewide moratorium on utility shutoffs is due to expire on July 25th. Many low-income households pay upwards of 20-30% of their income on utilities, and their continued access to these life-sustaining services are still at risk. Utilities across the state may soon begin disconnecting vulnerable families from their power, leaving them without essential resources during our country's greatest time of need. You cannot safely remain in your home without power. These are basic necessities of life, not luxuries.

Summer 2020 promises to be one of the hottest on record and July and August are the hottest months of the year. The impacts of cutting off people's power at this moment would be unimaginable misery and death. Without proper cooling and refrigeration, Wisconsinites may suffer from heat stress, heat strokes, and reduced immune system function. Without the capacity to refrigerate medicine, diabetics and those suffering from a host of other illnesses will be put at even greater risk than at present.

Disconnecting people's power is cruel and deadly.

We are at the peak of the greatest public health crisis we have ever faced. Wisconsinites need your help now and we ask you to use your power as Wisconsin Public Service Commissioners to order all energy utilities in Wisconsin to continue to suspend all power disconnections for non-payment and waive associated late fees and other fines for their residential customers.

On behalf of our tens of thousands of members and supporters across the state, we request that the Public Service Commission continue the shutoff moratoriums at least until cooler weather and the virus risk has abated sufficiently. Thank you for your time and service.

For more information, contact Government Affairs Director Jennifer Giegerich at Jennifer@conservationvoters.org or 608-213-1406.

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